

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS (As of midnight GMT+2, 4 December 2021)



8

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of cases



3

Countries reporting biweekly increase in numbers of deaths



16 847 521

Total laboratory-confirmed cases



16 218 239

Total reported recovered cases



310 749

Total reported deaths



275 240 302

Total tests performed



COVID-19 testing workshop kicked off in Syria, under WHO support and in coordination with GAVI and UNICEF, targeting national health workforce with detailed technical assistance

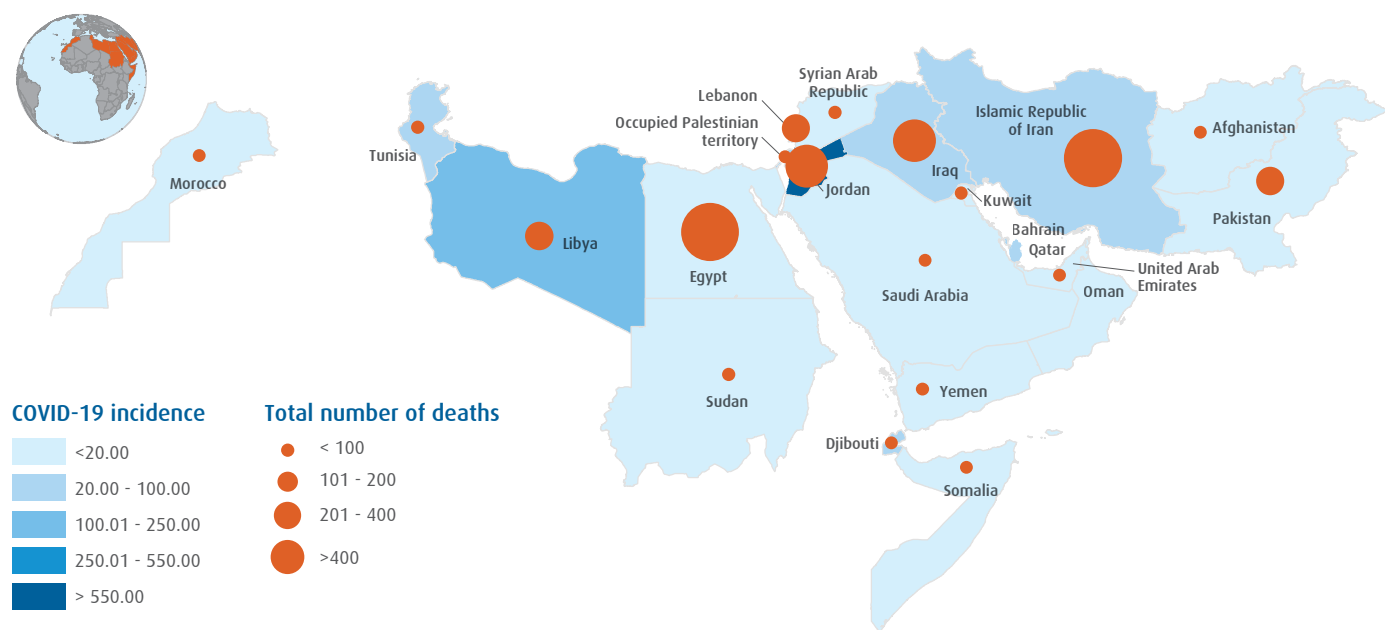
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## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **COVID-19 cases and deaths:** As of 4 December 2021, the Eastern Mediterranean Region has reported 16,847,521 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 310,749 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- **Epidemiological trend:** during the reporting period, in comparison with the previous two weeks:
  - The number of reported cases has stabilized.
  - Deaths have decreased by 13%.
  - The number of conducted tests has decreased by 5%.
  - Eight and three countries have reported an increase in cases and deaths respectively, compared to six and two countries respectively in the previous two weeks.
  - A decrease in both cases and deaths was reported by 11 countries, compared to 14 in the previous two weeks.
- **COVID-19 testing:** The total number of tests in the Region has reached 275,240,302, with a median cumulative positivity ratio of 8.0% (range from 0.7% to 30.8%).
- **Variants of concern (VOCs):**
  - 21 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Alpha VOC.
  - 18 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Beta VOC.
  - 6 countries/territories in the Region have officially reported the detection of the Gamma VOC.
  - 18 countries/territories have officially reported the detection of the Delta VOC.
  - 3 countries have officially reported the detection of the Omicron VOC.

# Map 1: COVID-19 biweekly attack rate per 100,000 population and number of new deaths per country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

21 November – 4 December 2021

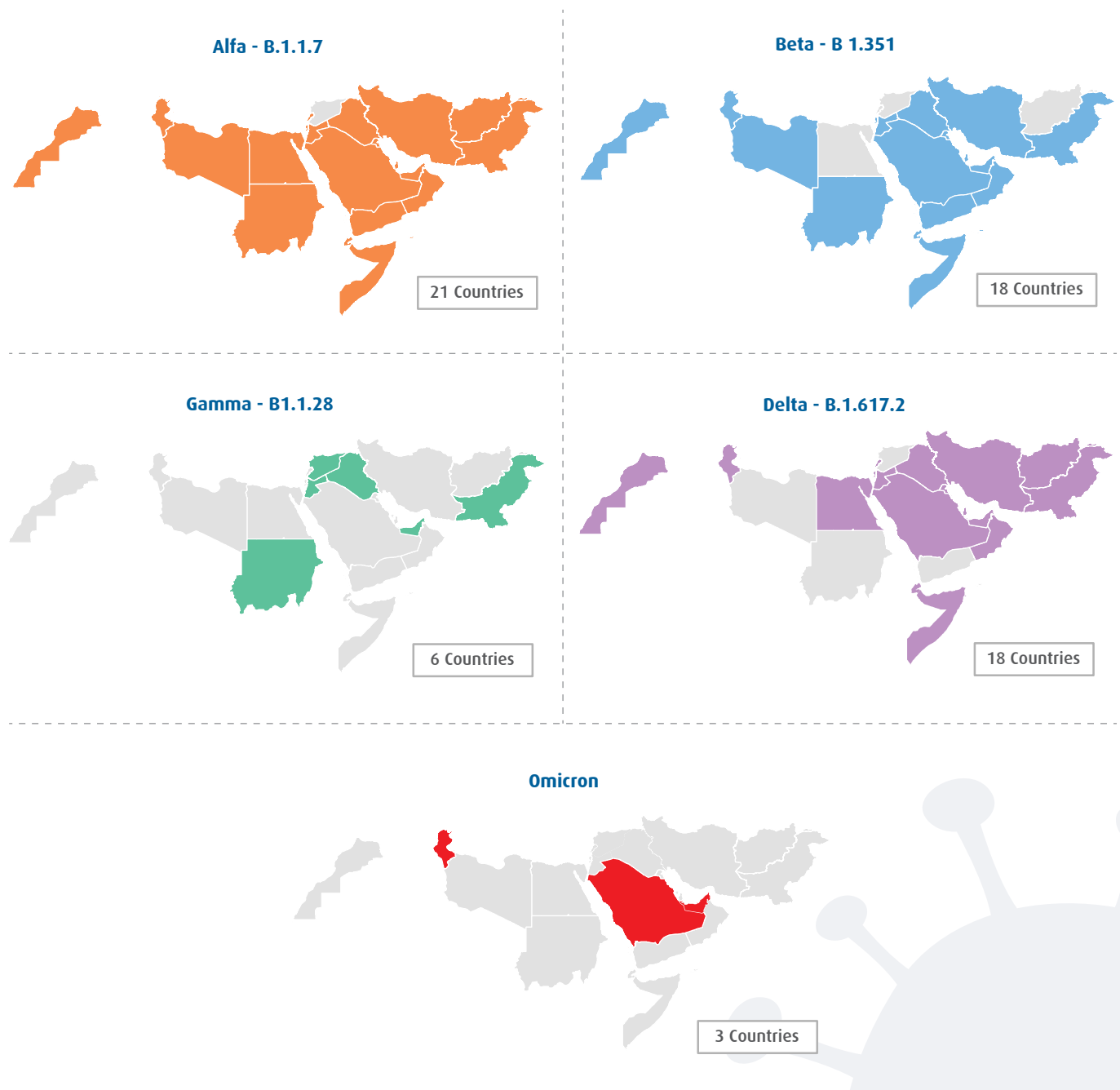


## IN FOCUS:OMICRON VARIANT OF CONCERN

- On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern (VOC), naming it Omicron, based on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE).
- As of 3 December, 38 countries around the world reported the Omicron VOC. The first case in the Eastern Mediterranean Region was detected in Saudi Arabia on 1 December 2021. To date, three countries in the Region have reported the detection of the Omicron VOC: Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The Omicron VOC's multiple mutations may have an impact on how it behaves, such as how easily it may spread or the severity of illness it may cause.
- WHO recommends countries and individuals maintain and scale up all existing measures, including vaccination, mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing, and ventilation of indoor spaces.
- WHO advises countries to continue applying an evidence-informed and risk-based approach when implementing travel measures in accordance with the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). Read more here: <http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/omicron-voc-questions-and-answers.html>

## Map 2: Countries reporting SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

21 November – 4 December 2021



## Table 1: Epidemiological situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

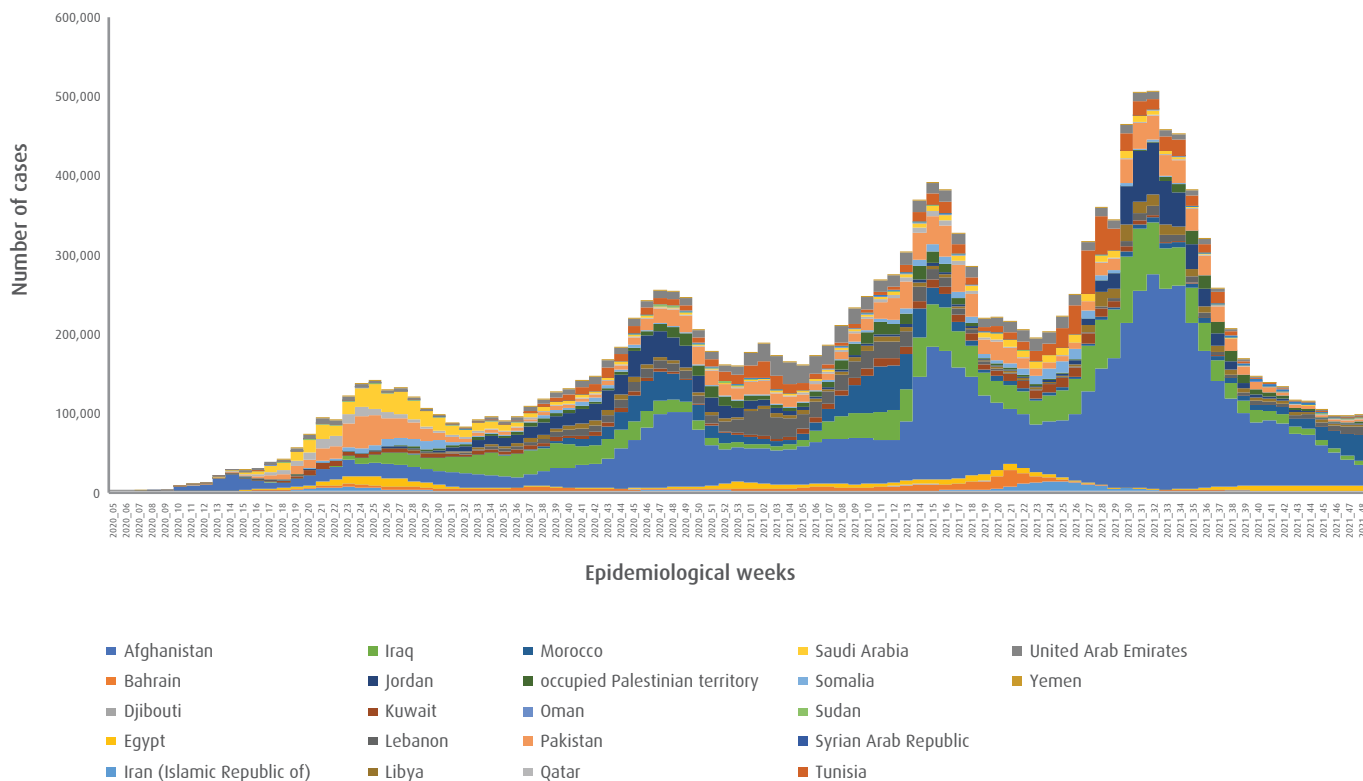
21 November – 4 December 2021

Country	New Confirmed Cases	Total Confirmed Cases	New Deaths	Total Deaths	CFR	Total Recovered	Total Tests
Afghanistan	543	157,454	9	7,312	4.6%	140,723	796,441
Bahrain	455	277,803	0	1,394	0.5%	276,096	7,475,602
Djibouti	7	13,508	1	187	1.4%	13,294	248,032
Egypt	12,747	362,260	810	20,682	5.7%	300,437	5,693,700
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	58,258	6,131,356	1,272	130,124	2.1%	5,916,199	39,201,601
Iraq	10,054	2,083,889	231	23,873	1.1%	2,049,194	16,417,858
Jordan	60,131	971,401	368	11,715	1.2%	899,555	12,351,487
Kuwait	344	413,464	1	2,465	0.6%	410,701	5,409,875
Lebanon	18,707	677,174	130	8,765	1.3%	635,626	7,774,570
Libya	7,178	374,989	113	5,493	1.5%	355,121	1,946,238
Morocco	1,671	950,501	26	14,787	1.6%	932,835	9,540,962
Occupied Palestinian territory	3,671	461,944	40	4,814	1.0%	453,865	2,754,593
Oman	111	304,599	0	4,113	1.4%	300,021	1,986,264
Pakistan	4,953	1,286,825	108	28,767	2.2%	1,245,606	22,211,141
Qatar	2,102	244,071	0	611	0.3%	241,340	3,016,769
Saudi Arabia	434	549,877	19	8,842	1.6%	539,011	31,654,455
Somalia	82	23,051	7	1,331	5.8%	12,325	371,431
Sudan	2,281	44,075	97	3,200	7.3%	30,867	475,025
Syrian Arab Republic	1,447	48,538	73	2,772	5.7%	29,624	79,630
Tunisia	2,181	718,443	57	25,401	3.5%	691,640	3,198,939
United Arab Emirates	908	742,278	4	2,148	0.3%	737,255	102,306,097
Yemen	66	10,021	15	1,953	19.5%	6,904	329,592
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,331</b>	<b>16,847,521</b>	<b>3,381</b>	<b>310,749</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>16,218,239</b>	<b>275,240,302</b>



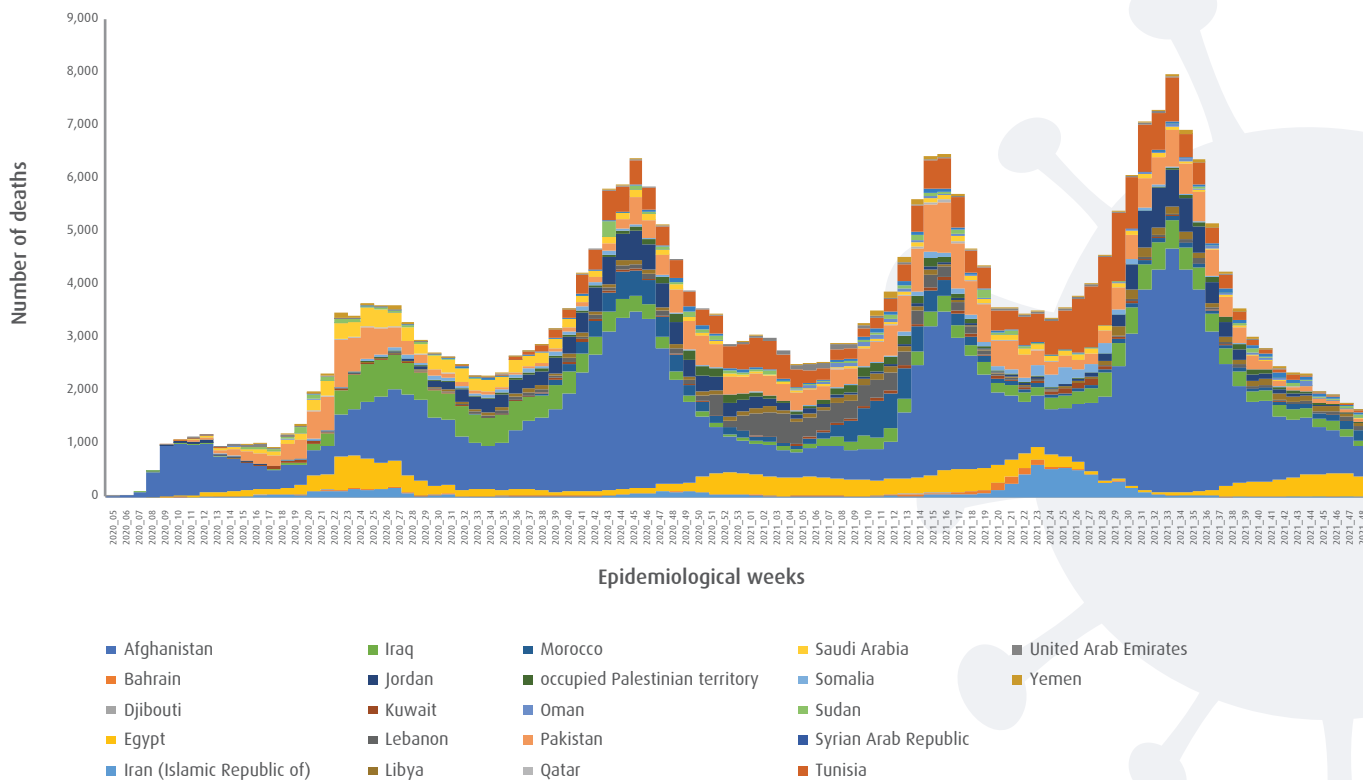
# Graph 1: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 4 December 2021



# Graph 2: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

26 January 2020 – 4 December 2021



## IN FOCUS: VACCINATION UPDATE AS OF 4 DECEMBER 2021

- Over 484 million vaccines doses have been administered across the Region.
- Only 25% of the total population in the Region has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, most being in high-income countries.
- Seven countries are still lagging with less than 10% of vaccination coverage.

## REGIONAL RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Partnership and Coordination

- Met with the regional health partners on 5 December, providing epidemiological and COVAX updates, and discussing the findings of the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey conducted by CARE International in Iraq on the COVID-19 vaccine uptake.

### Health Operations and Technical Expertise

#### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- Reviewed and updated the terms of reference of the national IPC committee in Afghanistan.
- Conducted a two-day training on IPC outbreak preparedness and response on 22 and 23 November for 15 national IPC officers in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory.
- Conducted a two-day training on IPC in critical areas on 29 and 30 November for 15 national IPC officers in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory.

#### Case Management and Clinical Operations

- Conducted a surge mission to Kabul, Herat, and Farah in Afghanistan (16 November to 3 December) to support COVID-19 case management, guideline development, COVID-19 hospital functionality assessments, fundraising, and the integration plan of COVID-19 beds and services into regular health care services.
- Circulated the third version of the WHO COVID-19 Clinical Management Living Guidance published on 23 November. It includes two new recommendations regarding hospitalized children with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome). The guidance is available here: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-clinical-2021-2>.

## Research and Knowledge Management

- Followed up on the ongoing submission of the WHO Unity Study global systematic review and meta-analysis manuscript.
  - Finalized three evidence-to-policy case studies (on Yemen, Somalia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran) to showcase successful experiences of evidence-informed policymaking in the Region during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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## Essential Health Services and Systems

- Progressed on the frontline service readiness assessment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen.
  - Initiated the Delphi study (study to develop model essential health services packages for countries in the Region) to create consensus on essential health services.
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## COVID-19 Vaccine

- Followed up on the COVID-19 vaccine supply, consumption, and fund utilization.
- Supported countries through field missions to Syria, Sudan, and Djibouti.
- Advocated with donors on supporting vaccine supply and vaccination operational costs.

Regional COVID-19 website:

<http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/index.html>

For more information, contact [emrgonCoV@who.int](mailto:emrgonCoV@who.int)